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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12
IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 /096 W
----------018367 141203Z /40
P R 141110Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2624
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
DIRNSA
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
COAST GUARD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5155

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TU
SUBJECT: U.S. /TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION: POSSIBLE INTERIM ARRANGE-
MENT

REF: ANKARA 4977 (DTG 070805Z JUL 78)

1. MUTUAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (POL/MIL) EMBOFFS HAD LUNCH WITH INCOMING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE AGREEMENTS, YALIM ERALP JULY 12. ERALP, WHO REPLACES HALUK OZGUL, WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL GOT NEGOTIATOR FOR THE NEW DCA. ERALP BEGAN THE CONVERSATION BY REVIEWING THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND SECGEN ELEKDAG (REFTEL) ON OUR REQUEST FOR AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE U.S. TO OPERATE OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE NEW DCA. WHILE REPEATING ELEKDAG'S OPINION THAT SUCH INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE
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ON LEGAL GROUNDS, ERALP AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD PROVIDE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY THAT MUST BE QUICKLY CAPITALIZED UPON TO REVERSE NEGATIVE PATTERNS AND ATTITUDES OF BEHAVIOR THAT ARE PART OF THE RESIDUE OF THREE YEARS OF "PROVISIONAL STATUS". ERALP EVIDENCED GREAT INTEREST IN DISCUSSING WAYS IN WHICH "FORWARD MOTION" COULD BE DEMONSTRATED, SHORT OF FULLY OPERATING THE INSTALLATIONS,

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WITH RESPECT TO RESTORING U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY
ONCE THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED.

2. EMBOFFS SAID THAT THE ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP MUST BE FOR
THE GOT UNILATERALLY TO ANNOUNCE THE TERMINATION OF "PROVISIONAL
STATUS" ON THE DAY THE EMBARGO IS REPEALED. EMBOFFS
NOTED THAT "PROVISIONAL STATUS" WAS WIDELY VIEWED AS PUNITIVE
AND THAT ITS REMOVAL SHOULD BE THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE
REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. IN ADDITION, ERALP WAS TOLD THAT THE
CONTINUATION OF "PROVISIONAL STATUS" WOULD MAKE IMPOSSIBLE THE
PREPARATION OF THE INSTALLATIONS FOR THE FULL RESUMPTION OF
OPERATIONS WHEN A NEW DCA IS CONCLUDED. EMBOFFS ALSO NOTED
THAT THE USG HAD ALREADY MADE CLEAR THE DESIRE TO WORK OUT
ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURKISH OPERATION OF KARGABURUN AND BELBASI.
QUICK GOT ACTION TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER WOULD PERMIT THE
RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS AT THESE TWO INSTALLATIONS AS
TURKISH FACILITIES, BUT WITH U.S. PERSONNEL OPERATING THE
EQUIPMENT TEMPORARILY AND TRAINING GOT PERSONNEL TO ASSUME
COMPLETE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER A MUTUALLY AGREED
PERIOD. FINALLY, EMBOFF STRESSED THAT APO PACKAGE SERVICE
AND BX FACILITIES IN TURKEY MUST BE QUICKLY RESTORED. WITH
RESPECT TO APO, EMBOFF NOTED THAT WE INTEND TO USE THE
PACKAGE SERVICE TO SEND MUCH OF THE FRUSTRATED MAP ITEMS
(E.G., SPARE PARTS, TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS) THAT WOULD BE
DELIVERED UPON REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO.

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3. RE THE NEW DCA, ERALP SAID THAT HE WAS REVIEWING PREVIOUS
GOT NEGOTIATING POSITIONS AND THAT ONCE THIS PROCESS WAS
COMPLETE, MFA WOULD BE GOING TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO GET
HIS VIEWS ON THE SHAPE AND CONTENT OF A NEW AGREEMENT.
ERALP OPINED THAT HE BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE QUICKLY
CONCLUDED AS "WE ALREADY HAVE THE FRAMEWORK" (THE 1976 DCA)
AND WE HAVE AGREED TO SEPARATE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PACKAGE FROM THE AGREEMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE
EXPECTED TO BE NEGOTIATING MORE WITH THE TURKISH GENERAL
STAFF (TGS) OVER THE NEW DCA THAN WITH THE U.S., BUT HE ADDED
THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO CONTROL
THE MILITARY IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAN IN THE PAST UNDER
DEMIREL. (NOTE: IN A CONVERSATION JULY 12 WITH ERALP'S
IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS ALI HIKMET ALP, ALP SAID THAT IN CONTRAST
TO THE DEMIREL ADMINISTRATION HE EXPECTED THAT THE MINISTER
OF DEFENSE WOULD INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THUS
ADDING "ANOTHER CIVILIAN VOICE" AS A COUNTER TO TGS.
ALP ALSO SAID THAT MFA WAS STUDYING WAYS IN WHICH THE
INSTALLATIONS COULD BE JUSTIFIED TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION
AS NATO FACILITIES AND AS SERVING SOME MULTILATERAL PURPOSE.)
ERALP ADDED THAT HE AND ALP WANT TO VISIT ALL U.S. INSTALLATIONS

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PERSONALLY SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO RELY ON TGS
BRIEFINGS, AN IDEA THAT EMBOFF ENCOURAGED.

4. EMBOFF SAID THAT, IF THE GOT WERE UNWILLING TO ALLOW
INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST-EMBARGO OPERATIONS AT THE
INSTALLATIONS, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO NEGOTIATE AND TO
CONCLUDE A NEW DCA QUICKLY. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THE
RECORD OF U.S.-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS GAVE EVIDENCE THAT
AGREEMENT WAS OFTEN DIFFICULT AND USUALLY TIME-CONSUMING.
THEY STRESSED THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TIME AVAILABLE
BEFORE CONGRESS WOULD BEGIN TO CONSIDER THE FY 1980 SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PACKAGE (I.E., IN JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY 1979).
ERALP SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT THAT, AT THAT TIME,
CONGRESS WOULD FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE
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INSTALLATIONS WERE OPERATING.

5. COMMENT: ERALP APPEARED TO APPRECIATE EMBOFF COMMENTS
OUTLINED ABOVE. CERTAINLY, HIS BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE
ENCOURAGE US TO BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE UNDERSTANDING AND
IMAGINATIVE IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. MUCH OF ERALP'S
EDUCATION WAS IN SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.
ASIDE FROM EXCELLENT ENGLISH, HE DISPLAYED AN INTUITIVE
UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN WAYS OF DOING THINGS AND COMMENTED
THAT DURING HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN WORKING ON NATO AFFAIRS
HE HAD VISITED MANY U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND UNDERSTOOD
OUR UNIQUE PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, ERALP WAS THE TRIP
COORDINATOR AND A NATO AFFAIRS ADVISOR FOR PRIME MINISTER
ECEVIT'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA05155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0068
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabzfi.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d51c9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 4977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2012566
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. /TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION: POSSIBLE INTERIM ARRANGE- MENT
TAGS: MARR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d51c9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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